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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 25, 2002

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **SCAG's "Project For Immigrant Lives" Examines Shocking Trend Of Migrant Deaths In The Desert**

- WHAT:** Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Project for Immigrant Lives Task Force
- WHO:** The Honorable Greg Pettis, mayor pro tem, city of Cathedral City; chair of SCAG's Project for Immigrant Lives
- WHEN:** Thursday, February 28, 2002  
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Imperial Irrigation District - Training Room  
1284 Main Street  
El Centro, California  
(Parking at rear of building-off Broadway)
- BACKGROUND:** More than three years since its inaugural meeting to help save the lives of undocumented immigrants crossing into the United States through the deserts of Imperial and Coachella Valley, the **Project for Immigrant Lives** will meet to continue its vital work examining the alarming trend of migrant deaths in these deserts. At the urging of community members and officials on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border, the program will continue working to address the increasing number of these deaths. The Project is also announcing the appointment of its new Chair, Cathedral City Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis.
- Project members include elected officials, law enforcement personnel, medical experts, business and religious leaders, and other interested citizens from the affected areas. Among the topics for discussion at the meeting will be the formation of a non-profit organization that would carry on the Project's long-term goals, and an update on the upcoming U.S.-Mexico Summit. The meeting will also include reports from the U.S. Border Patrol and the Mexican Consulate, as well as the Imperial County Sheriff's Coroner's Office and Project Life Lines.

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: For additional information regarding SCAG's Project for Immigrant Lives, please call Arnold San Miguel of SCAG at 909/784-3526.]**